GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:854
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Programmes to Create Cultural Awareness
Sharma Shri Jugal Kishore;Singh Shri Satya Pal;Tripathi Shri Sharad

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government organizes various programmes/events to create cultural awareness and promote country''s rich cultural heritage among people particularly, among school and college students;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievement made so far;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Commission of Heritage Sites;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Commission is likely to be constituted;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up Indian Cultural Centres abroad to propagate our Indian Culture in entire world; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. To create cultural awareness and promote country''s rich cultural heritage among people including school and college students, the Government of India has taken up various measures including inter-alia setting up of seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural programmes and activities on a regular basis at various places including schools and colleges throughout the country. The ZCC at Allahabad is running two interpretation centres in two schools of Varanasi imparting training of Chaiti and Kajri to the students of these schools. The ZCC at Patiala invites school and college students in its mega events like National Crafts Melas, SARAS Melas and Fairs & Festivals organized in the member states. Free DVDs/CDs are distributed to students to acquaint them about the art forms and rich cultural heritage of India. These ZCCs also organize number of workshops, seminars, summer camps, festivals, shivirs etc. in various schools for the children. During Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs held in Delhi during the year 2015 and 2016, students from various schools and colleges were involved, presented Nukkad Nataks at various places in New Delhi and also served as volunteers during the Mahotsavs.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body under Ministry of External Affairs is currently operating 37 Indian Cultural Centres across the globe, where the knowledge about various aspects of Indian culture like dance, music, yoga and language are provided to the local citizens. These Centres are located in Guyana, Suriname, Egypt, Indonesia (Jakarta & Bali), Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Fiji, South Africa (Johannesburg & Durban), Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico, Brazil, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Netherlands, Maldives, Malaysia, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, China, Japan, Hungary, Afghanistan, Tajikstan, Myanmar, Czech Republic, Iran, Australia, Mauritius and Vietnam. For establishment of two new Indian Cultural Centres in Washington and Paris, the properties are being renovated for opening of these Centres. A provision of ` 9226.00 lakhs has been made in BE 2016-17 by ICCR for running the existing Centres as well as for opening the new Centres.